

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/781,905

Examiner

Ly D Pham

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2818

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 20 February 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-~~444~~¹¹.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/154,967.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 0204
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


David Nelms
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's Pre-Amendment filed February 20, 2004 has been entered. The specification has been amended. Claims 1 – 8 have been canceled.
2. Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed February 20, 2004, has been considered by the examiner.
3. Claims 9 – 11 are presented for the examination.
4. This application is in condition for allowance, except for the following formal matter.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Eckhard H. Kuesters on June 11, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 9:

Page 4: Line 13, replace "a source" with "a **drain**".

Line 15, replace "a source" with "a **drain**".

Line 18, replace "**first** wiring" with "**second** wiring", and replace "**fourth** and **sixth**" with "**second** and **fifth**".

Page 5: Line 1, replace “**second** wiring” with “**first** wiring”, and replace “**second** and **fifth**” with “**fourth** and **sixth**”.

Line 2, replace “**MOSFET**” with ‘**MOSFET’s**’.

6. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior arts teach a semiconductor memory device comprising a plurality of memory cells, each comprising: first to sixth MOSFET’s connected in a form of a conventional SRAM flip-flop cell.

However, the prior arts did not disclose the memory cell further comprising first to fourth wells formed on a semiconductor substrate and isolated from one another, as claimed in claim 1, in which each transistor is formed on a designated well, and

a first contact section formed in an isolation region isolating the first well from the third well, and connecting the second wiring to the gates of the second and fifth MOSFET’s;

a second contact section formed in an isolation region isolating the second well from the fourth well, and connecting the first wiring to the gates of the fourth and sixth MOSFET’s; wherein

the first well is connected to the third well through the gates of the second and fifth MOSFET’s, and the second well is connected to the fourth well through the gates of the fourth and sixth MOSFET’s.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 (three) months and 0 (zero) day from the date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned (see MPEP 710.02(b)).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication on earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ly Pham, whose telephone number is **571-272-1793**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm, alternate Friday off. The examiner's supervisor, David Nelms, can be reached at **571-272-1787**. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Ly Pham



June 11, 2004



David Nelms
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800